

and are currently in the process of being created for political reasons and to avoid congressional scrutiny and public input. Congress has the right to stop this abuse and has the obligation to stop this abuse.

This public participation, Mr. Speaker, it is very important in a democracy that the public have the right to participate in important decisions. I think it is particularly important for all the public to participate in public land decisions. It is after all, it is their land; is it not?

As my colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, on September 16, 1969, the President of the United States did the same thing in Arizona and declared 1.7 million acres a national monument. How many of us were aware of this? Very, very few. In fact my AA called up the White House the day before and said, We are hearing this rumor. Is it true that the President is going to declare part of southern Utah, a piece bigger than most of our eastern states; it would take all of the eastern States for a lot of my colleagues in one fell swoop.

Oh, no, we do not know anything about it; we have heard the same rumor. Yet later in that day, the next day they declared this huge, huge piece of land a national monument.

Now why did they do it? Well, we wanted to know. Of course we wanted to know. I chair the Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks; I really thought I had a right to know. Did not Governor Leavitt have a right to know? Did not our two senators have a right to know? Did the rest of the delegation? What about the people in Utah; did they not have a right to know? Apparently not, Mr. Speaker.

So we subpoena all these papers, the volumes of papers after a little hassle with the White House. Do my colleagues know what they said? We are doing it for political reasons. We are doing it because the environmental community will think it is wonderful. As my colleagues know, these folks from New York and other areas, they think that is great. What about the people who live there? Do they not have a say in anything?

So we have a national monument, yet to this day I do not think anyone has delineated what it really protects. So we have this huge piece of ground of rolling hills, of sagebrush and rattlesnakes, and I sure hope somebody enjoys it because everyone that goes there only goes once, and anyway all this little simple bill is about is to say: "Let us have a little notice, Mr. President. We don't want to take away your rights."

In the last term on this floor, we passed one that said let us reduce it to 50,000 acres. We have 73 national monuments, most of them are very small, and let us make sure that the President names what the historic or scientific area is.

How big is 50,000 acres? Pretty good chunk of ground. Realize all of Washington, D.C. is 38,000 acres; bigger than Washington, D.C., and yet the other body did not see fit to pass the legislation.

So this bill is about public participation. All we are saying is the Governor of the State, the congressional delegation of the State really ought to have the courtesy, that word that does not seem to be so prevalent recently, just the courtesy for someone to let us know when we are going to do this, 60 days so someone can react.

I urge support of this rule, Mr. Speaker.

□ 0930

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO).

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule. I appreciate the work of the Committee on Rules providing for an opportunity to fully consider this matter. Hopefully we have come to a resolution and an agreement with regards to public participation in the notification.

The 1906 law that we are amending has had an important history. Over 105 monuments have been declared over the history of presidential use of this power, which is, I think, essential to try to keep intact with some public participation, notification requirements as are outlined in the bill. This is a meaningful step, a necessary step, and I think it will provide for the opportunity where emergencies dictate for the President to take alternative action. I intend to offer an amendment during the consideration of the bill. I appreciate the format and the House consideration of this matter, and this process.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of an open rule to H.R. 1487.

H.R. 1487 was written out of concern that there was a lack of public involvement in the designation of national monuments under the Antiquities Act. Although I had several concerns with the original legislation, Mr. HANSEN and I worked together and offered an amendment that Members on both sides of the aisle could support. As a result, I offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute that passed the committee by voice vote.

Because of the bipartisan work on this legislation, I see no reason why this Chamber should not fully discuss the merits of this legislation under an open rule. Mr. HANSEN and I worked through our differences to achieve an equitable solution to a problem that divided this House last year. I plan to offer an amendment today whose intent states that nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify the current authority of the President to declare a national monument as provided to him under the Antiquities Act. I am offering this amendment because the Resource Committee's report didn't accurately represent the intent and scope of my substitute amendment.

I realize that this legislation does not accomplish everyone's goals, but I also must ac-

knowledge that it is legislation that we can all support. Mr. HANSEN and I have worked on this legislation to try and resolve the issue of the monument declaration procedures and are pleased to offer a proposal that hopefully can win broad support. I would like to express my thanks to the Rules Committee for the positive response and action in approving an open rule for the House consideration. This House should openly debate and openly discuss the merits of this proposal and this important presidential power. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this rule.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2559, AGRICULTURE RISK PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon a "dear colleague" letter will be sent to all the Members informing them that the Committee on Rules is planning to meet the week of September 27 to grant a rule for the consideration of H.R. 2559, the Agriculture Risk Protection Act.

The Committee on Rules may grant a rule which would require that amendments be pre-printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In this case, amendments must be pre-printed prior to consideration of the bill on the floor. Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the office of the parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the House rule.

NATIONAL MONUMENT NEPA COMPLIANCE ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Pursuant to House Resolution 296 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1487.

□ 0932

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1487) to provide for public participation in the declaration of national monuments under the Act popularly known as the